

a blade holder that has a reference surface and is loaded into the microkeratome inner cavity so that said reference surface is in contact with the inner cavity reference surface, said blade holder reference surface is attached to and in contact with said rear edge of said blade, said blade holder having a slot that receives the microkeratome pin~~is coupled to said blade.~~

2. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade has a notch at said rear edge.

3. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said rear edge has a plurality of fingers.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

6. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder has a clip that is attached to said blade.

7. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade can pivot relative to said blade holder.

8. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

9. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into an inner cavity of a microkeratome, the inner cavity having a reference surface, the microkeratome having a pin~~a medical device used to cut a cornea~~, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge ~~that has a notch~~, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that has coupling means for coupling said rear edge of said blade to said blade holder, said blade holder having a slot that receives the microkeratome pin~~is coupled to said blade at said notch~~.

10. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade has a notch at each side edge.

11. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said rear edge has a plurality of fingers.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

14. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder has an outer groove.

15. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade holder has a cavity.

16. (Canceled)
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